

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2 am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Amended: 2/12/21

Introduced: 2/12/21

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the governor to issue a new declaration.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

3 **WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2021, the governor issued a declaration under AS 26.23,
4 stating that the outbreak of COVID-19 was occurring in the state because of widespread
5 community transmission; and

6 **WHEREAS**, since the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in the state in March 2020, the
7 effects have resulted in serious consequences for all residents of the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Senate recognizes that, because of local action, students throughout
9 the state have been deprived of in-person learning, and the state has seen increased incidence
10 of depression and other emotional harm in students as a result of school closures, as well as
11 increased instances of child abuse and food insecurity; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Senate also recognizes that communities in the state have seen fit to
13 impose lockdown orders, which have severely reduced economic activity in those
14 communities, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs, the closure of many businesses, and
15 significant economic harm to a large proportion of Alaskans in various economic sectors; and

16 **WHEREAS** it is the position of the Senate that a health care provider may not

1 administer a COVID-19 vaccine to an individual without first obtaining the informed consent
2 of the individual or, if the individual is a minor child, of a parent or guardian of the minor
3 child; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Senate supports that an individual or a parent or guardian of a minor
5 child may object to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine based on religious, medical, or
6 other grounds, and that a person may not require an individual to provide justification or
7 documentation to support the individual's decision to decline a COVID-19 vaccine or to
8 decline a COVID-19 vaccine for a minor child; and

9 **WHEREAS**, partly because of the state's robust COVID-19 response efforts and the
10 governor's leadership, the state currently has the third-lowest COVID-19 fatality rate in the
11 United States; and

12 **WHEREAS**, because of diligent efforts, the state has one of the highest vaccination
13 rates in the United States; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Senate acknowledges the state's transition from a disaster to a
15 recovery phase and supports the reduction of mandates to carefully but fully reopen the state's
16 economy, while safely protecting Alaskans; and

17 **WHEREAS** the governor's January 14, 2021, declaration is set to expire on
18 February 14, 2021; and

19 **WHEREAS** there is insufficient time to allow the Alaska State Legislature to fully
20 debate and determine the least restrictive means to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and pass
21 legislation, instead of relying on additional emergency orders, while, at the same time, being
22 certain that the state does not lose access to federal funding for programs important to
23 Alaskans;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate, without waiving the authority of the legislature
25 under AS 26.23.020(c) or 26.23.025(b), urges the governor to issue a new, narrowly defined
26 declaration, not to exceed 30 days, to access funding and protect the health and safety of
27 Alaskans.